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Sacramento jury awards \$2.9 million to family of I-5 crash victim

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A Sacramento Superior Court jury today awarded nearly \$2.9 million to the survivors of an Oregon woman who was killed in an April 10, 2009, traffic collision with a United Parcel Service truck near Redding.

Rosa Margarita Arenas, 52, was driving from her home in Bend, Ore., to visit her children in Los Angeles when a UPS truck changed lanes on southbound Interstate 5 and caused her fatal collision, said plaintiffs attorney Roger A. Dreyer of Sacramento.

"The family feels very vindicated by the verdict in that UPS tried to blame their mother for being responsible for the incident," Dreyer said.

Defense attorneys from the San Francisco firm of Maranga Morgenstern declined to comment on the verdict.

Jurors included in the award for Arenas' husband and three children \$1.75 million in non-economic damages for past and future loss of love, affection and comfort.

The trial was held in Sacramento because the UPS driver, William Danny Steverson, lives here.

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